

**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
***AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON THE**  
**WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/37/28)**



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#### **NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 36/91 of 9 December 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/ to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any possible relevant proposals and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2). The Assembly also requested the Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-seventh session.

2. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Juan José Calle y Calle (Peru)  
Mr. Ryszard Krystosik (Poland)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fermín Zelada (Spain) and his successor,  
Mr. Arturo Laclaustra (Spain)

3. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics participated in the work of the Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same provision, China, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman. The German Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attended meetings of the Committee as observers.

4. The working group established in 1974 continued to function. 2/

## II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1982.
6. During the first session which was devoted to the preparation and adoption of the special report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its Twelfth Special Session, 3/ the Committee held three meetings from 5 to 8 April and the Working Group held two meetings on 7 April under the chairmanship of Mr. Fermín Zelada, during which it prepared the report to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session.
7. At the 1st meeting of the session (61st meeting), the Ad Hoc Committee was informed that Mr. Ryszard Frelek (Poland) and Mr. Artemon Simbananiye (Burundi) had completed their mission in New York and thus were unable to continue in their functions as Vice-Chairmen. The Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Ryszard Krystosik (Poland) as a new Vice-Chairman. The other post of Vice-Chairman, however, remained vacant. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution made to its work by Mr. Frelek and Mr. Simbananiye.
8. At its 63rd meeting, on 8 April, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session which included the sections entitled "Introduction", "Work of the Committee" and "Conclusions and recommendations made from 1978 to 1982 by the Ad Hoc Committee, including those relating to its mandate".
9. (a) The report of the Ad Hoc Committee was before the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, entitled "Enhancement of the effectiveness of machinery in the field of disarmament and strengthening of the role of the United Nations in this field, including the possible convening of a World Disarmament Conference" (A/S-12/10).
- (b) During the general debate of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, a number of Member States made reference in their statements to a World Disarmament Conference.
- (c) On 28 June 1982, at the 9th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference introduced its report (A/S-12/4). 4/
- (d) Although the General Assembly at its twelfth special session did not make any recommendations on the question of a World Disarmament Conference, in its report to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the Ad Hoc Committee of the special session recommended that the items on which the special session had not reached decisions should be taken up at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly for further consideration. 5/
10. During its second session, the Ad Hoc Committee held three meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 August and the Working Group held three meetings on 24 and 25 August 1982 with the purpose of preparing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

11. At the 1st meeting of the session (64th meeting), the Committee was informed that Mr. Fermín Zelada (Spain) had completed his mission in New York and thus was unable to continue his functions as Rapporteur. The Committee, therefore, elected by acclamation Mr. Arturo Laclaustra (Spain) as the new Rapporteur. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution made to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by Mr. Zelada.

12. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 66th meeting, on 27 August, considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

13. During the two sessions, the Chairman and the representatives of the following States Members of the Ad Hoc Committee made statements: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Hungary, Mongolia and Poland; and German Democratic Republic as an observer also made a statement. Furthermore, the USSR made statements.

14. Members of the Committee were fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the other States on the convening of a World Disarmament Conference, including those which referred to this subject in their statements made during the twelfth special session of the General Assembly.

15. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 36/91, the Ad Hoc Committee, through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes and obtained the following updated indications of their positions:

#### China

The position of the Government of China regarding the convocation of a world disarmament conference remains unchanged. Quite a number of large-scale disarmament conferences have been held in recent years. Facts have shown that the convening of any more such conferences would serve no practical purposes under the circumstances in which the super Powers lack good faith for disarmament but stubbornly persist in policies of aggression and expansion and refuse to withdraw their occupation troops from foreign territories. The recent second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament is a case in point. Apparently, the conditions for convening a world disarmament conference are not yet ripe.

#### France

The position of France regarding the convening of a World Disarmament Conference has not changed since 1981. Having, in the past, adopted a favourable attitude in principle towards the idea of a world disarmament conference which, after a period of adequate preparation, would include the five Powers possessing nuclear weapons, France nevertheless notes that the present international situation is not conducive to the pursuit of such a project.

In addition, France believes that such an initiative should take into account the achievements of the first special session of the General Assembly, held in 1978, and the conclusions of the second session, held this year.

## Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union stands by its previously stated position on the question of the convening of the World Disarmament Conference.

In view of the situation in the world and the status of the arms limitation talks, new and more decisive efforts by States are urgently required in all aspects of the struggle to deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear catastrophe and to achieve disarmament. The Soviet Union therefore considers that the convening of the World Disarmament Conference would be an important step towards uniting the efforts of all States to achieve this goal.

It is the opinion of the Soviet Union that the World Disarmament Conference could, through a thorough study of disarmament questions, formulate effective approaches for curbing the arms race and achieving practical disarmament. The special value and usefulness of this forum lies, in its opinion, in the fact that the Conference would produce not simply recommendations but actual decisions, which States would be obliged to implement.

The idea of a World Disarmament Conference has received wide international support, particularly in the United Nations. The attempts of certain States possessing nuclear weapons to justify their unconstructive position in this matter by references to the deterioration of the international situation are indefensible, because it is precisely in such circumstances that the maintenance of peace requires a redoubling of efforts to curb the arms race and that every favourable opportunity must be used to achieve the goals of disarmament, including the opportunities which would be created as a result of the holding of the World Disarmament Conference.

In its decisions, the General Assembly has repeatedly referred to the possibility of convening a world conference after its second special session devoted to disarmament. It is quite logical for the Assembly now to express an opinion about the timing of this meeting.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the setting of a date for the World Disarmament Conference and the adoption of a decision concerning specific measures to prepare for the Conference would be welcomed by the entire peace-loving community as evidence of the determination of Member States to devote special attention to studying and resolving the disarmament issues which are of such vital importance to all mankind.

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Government of the United Kingdom maintains the view it has expressed in previous years that in the present international climate it is not useful to consider holding a world disarmament conference. Accordingly, the United Kingdom continues to doubt the usefulness of further meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and in any event thinks it would be inappropriate for the Committee to undertake any substantive work at this stage.



United States of America

The United States believes that to be successful a World Disarmament Conference must take place in a propitious international environment. An unsuccessful or inconclusive conference would serve no useful purpose but could create impediments to future efforts towards concrete and verifiable measures. As noted in the views of the United States contained in the April 1982 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to the General Assembly, the United States believes that at the present time there is insufficient political agreement on the fundamental disarmament issues which would be central to such a conference. Therefore the United States continues to believe that it is premature to contemplate the convening of a World Disarmament Conference.

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The Ad Hoc Committee reiterated that of a world disarmament conference has received wide support by the membership of the United Nations, however, with varying degrees of emphasis and differences on conditions and certain aspects related to the question of its convening, including aspects related to the deteriorating international situation. It was also evident from the updated indications of positions of the nuclear-weapon States, as reflected in paragraph 15 of the present report, some of which confirm certain elements requiring careful consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, that no consensus with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference under the present conditions has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States whose participation in such a conference has been deemed essential by most States Members of the Organization.

17. Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 64 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session <sup>6/</sup> should take up the question at its thirty-seventh regular session for its further consideration, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 36/91, adopted by consensus, in particular paragraph 1 of the said resolution.

18. The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

#### Notes

1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should consist of the following 40 non-nuclear-weapon Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

2/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Spain (Chairman) and Sri Lanka. Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, the USSR and Venezuela participated in the Working Group as observers.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/S-12/4).

4/ See A/S-12/AC.1/PV.9.

5/ Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session (A/S-12/32), para. 64.

6/ A/S-12/32.